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# Security Council

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## Letter dated 22 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward herewith the observations and views of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire about the ongoing negotiation process pertaining to the renewal of the sanctions on Côte d'Ivoire, in the framework of the implementation of Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1572 (2004) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this document and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Youssoufou **Bamba**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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**Annex to the letter dated 22 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

**Position of Côte d'Ivoire on the need to review the sanctions regime established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1572 (2004)**

## I. Positive developments in the situation in Côte d'Ivoire

1. The improvement in security in Côte d'Ivoire is reflected in the security index, which has gone from 3.8 to 1.2.

2. Strong economic growth of 9.8 per cent in 2012; the country has democratic institutions whose membership has been renewed following peaceful nationwide parliamentary and local elections.

3. Genuine reconciliation resulting from the mandate of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the adoption by the Government of sweeping measures to consolidate national reconciliation: return from exile of members of the previous regime, and return and reintegration of over 4,000 of the former regime's soldiers and militia members.

4. Ongoing and continuous return of refugees from Liberia; freedom for the opposition to be politically active throughout the country.

5. Efforts to combat impunity through the renewal of the mandate of the special investigative unit.

6. Consolidation of good governance through the signature on 15 April 2014 of the decree establishing the High Authority for Good Governance.

7. Adoption by the Government of a bill on the new Independent Electoral Commission, to be made up of 13 members instead of the previous 31, and due to start work in June 2014. The new Commission will have equal numbers of members from the opposition, the governing party and civil society.

8. Ongoing implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme under the supervision of the Authority for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, which is funded by many partners and aims to complete the process before the presidential election of October 2015.

9. Acceleration of the process of security sector reform with the establishment of the National Security Council, the adoption of the national security sector reform strategy, and the setting up of the main military commands.

10. Redeployment of the government administration across the entire country.

11. Adoption of a national development programme to foster balanced and harmonious development of the country.

## II. Aims and objectives of sanctions on Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire does not understand why sanctions remain unchanged three years after the end of the crisis.

- United Nations sanctions should not endure indefinitely: it must be possible to change them as and when progress is made and the national peace, reconstruction and reconciliation process advances.

- Sanctions must encourage a State to do better and not hold it back: the purpose of sanctions must not be to punish a sovereign and independent State.

Developments in the country and its reconstruction since President Alassane Ouattara came to power, and his support for peace and security in the subregion, are such that the time is now ripe for a review of the current sanctions regime.

Furthermore, given that there is no longer any fighting in Côte d'Ivoire, its institutions prevent it from being considered a failed State, and there is an absence of warlords and terrorist ideology in the country, the sanctions regime cannot continue without dangerously destabilizing the nation and threatening the foundations of its security, especially now that the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire is about to begin its withdrawal, at the President's request and because of certain external constraints.

## III. Key elements of the sanctions regime review requested by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire

### A. Arms embargo

It should be made clear from the outset that the highest authorities in Côte d'Ivoire are not requesting a complete lifting of the arms embargo.

However, Côte d'Ivoire is asking for a readjustment or loosening of the sanctions regime to enable it to complete the security sector and defence sector reform processes. Accordingly, Côte d'Ivoire is asking for:

1. An end to the embargo on the import of military and security (protective) materials and equipment known as "non-lethal" equipment (namely, vests, police and army uniforms, protective and camouflage garments, belts, gas masks, bags (pouches), ropes, earplugs, ribbons, camouflage netting and fabrics, paint, stretchers, straps, chest rigs, climbing equipment, boots, gloves, handcuffs and the like).

2. No change to the notification (information) procedure for transfers of small arms (firearms, revolvers and automatic pistols, rifles and carbines, machine guns, assault rifles, light machine guns and the like).

3. No change to the pre-authorization procedure for transfers of heavy weaponry (namely, portable anti-tank rocket launchers; rockets; anti-tank light weaponry; rifle grenades and grenade launchers; surface-to-air missiles, including man-portable air defence systems; mortars with a calibre greater than 82 millimetres; guided anti-tank weapons, in particular guided anti-tank missiles, and ammunition and components therefor; armed aircraft; and the like).

4. The drawing up of a list of military materials and equipment subject to pre-authorization by the Security Council and annexed to the future resolution (the aim being to avoid differing interpretations by States members of the Council).

### B. Embargo on the export of Ivorian diamonds

Having complied with the minimum requirements of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, Côte d'Ivoire requests the lifting (cancellation) of all measures banning trade in Ivorian diamonds.

## IV. Necessary review of the parameters or criteria for evaluating the implementation of the sanctions regime

Côte d'Ivoire is requesting that the resolution contain a number of clear and transparent operational criteria (verifiable actions, activities and training courses defined in close cooperation with the Group of Experts) enabling all parties concerned to evaluate advances in the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, the security sector reform process, the national reconciliation process and efforts to combat impunity.

The adoption of such criteria could be the best way to avoid divergences between the Government and the Security Council with respect to the interpretation of the situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

Abidjan, 21 April 2014